

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 SY-10 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00

USSS-00 DRC-01 /173 W

----- 113003

R 171305Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7690

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD; DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SA KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT NEWS STORY ON ATTACK ON SAUDI EMBASSY PARIS

REF: JIDDA 3987

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT KUWAIT DAILY NEWS ARTICLE ENTITLED "REAL  
STORY OF PARIS OPERATION," SUBTITLE "ABU NIDAL MASTERMINDED  
THE PLAN WITHOUT FATAH KNOWLEDGE" BY CITY EDITOR:

2. "KUWAIT - INQUIRY INTO THE CASE OF FIVE GUNMEN ARRESTED HERE  
RECENTLY FOLLOWING THEIR ABDUCTION OF FOUR SAUDI DIPLOMATS FROM  
PARIS TO KUWAIT REVEALED THAT ABU NIDAL -- A FATAH REPRESENTATIVE  
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IN BAGHDAD -- MASTERMINDED THE OPERATION WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF

OTHER FATAH LEADERS. ABU MIDAL, A LEFTWINGER WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS ANTAGONISM TOWARDS SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN, DELIBERATELY DEFIED FATAH LEADERSHIP AND ORDERED EXECUTION OF THE OPERATION APPARENTLY IN ORDER TO SABOTAGE UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE PALESTINE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. USUALLY, FATAH OPERATIONS ARE PLANNED BY AT LEAST A FIVE-MAN COUNCIL AND SHOULD BE ENDORSED BY FATAH LEADER, YASSER ARAFAT, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO). IN THE CASE OF THE PARIS OPERATION WHICH ENDED IN KUWAIT, ABU NIDAL HAD CONSULTED WITH NOBODY AND IS NOW TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL BEFORE A FATAH MILITARY COUNCIL. THE RELIABLE SOURCES WHICH YESTERDAY DISCLOSED THIS INFORMATION TO THE DAILY NEWS THEN RECOUNTED HOW AND WHY THE FIVE GUNMEN SURRENDERED TO KUWAIT AUTHORITIES. WHEN THE GUNMEN ARRIVED AT KUWAIT AFTER A FLIGHT FROM PARIS, AND THEN MADE ANOTHER FLIGHT OVER SAUDI ARABIA AND CAME BACK HERE, FATAH SUSPECTING THEIR MOVE, IMMEDIATELY SENT TWO OF ITS LEADERS, ABU MAZEN AND ABU SABER, TO BAGHDAD WHERE THEY MET ABU NIDAL AND HAD HEATED ARGUMENT WITH HIM. HOWEVER, THEY WERE ABLE TO UNCOVER THE CODE NAME OF THE OPERATION AND THE CODE NAME OF ITS LEADER -- HASSAN. ABU SABER IMMEDIATELY RETURNED HERE AND CALLED -- THROUGH MEGAPHONE -- THE LEADER OF THE FIVE GUNMEN BY HIS CODE NAME -- HASSAN --. AWARE THAT THEIR OPERATION HAD BEEN UNVEILED, THE GUNMEN SURRENDERED WITHOUT CONDITIONS. ABU MAZEN LATER CAME HERE AND APOLOGIZED TO KUWAIT GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF FATAH FOR ANY EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED BY THE DISSENTERS. FATAH HAS CONSIDERED THE OPERATION A CLEAR DEVIATION FROM ITS PRINCIPLES AND AS AIMED AT JEOPARDIZING ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH EACH OF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, IRAQ AND ALGERIA, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN FATAH WAS STEPPING UP ITS MEDIATION EFFORTS BETWEEN IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA AND WHEN ITS RECENT MEDIATION BETWEEN KUWAIT AND IRAQ WAS CROWNED WITH SUCCESS. IN THE MEANTIME, OUR SOURCES REVEALED THAT THE FIVE GUNMEN MAY BE HANDED OVER BY KUWAIT AUTHORITIES TO PLO LEADERSHIP ANY MOMENT AS OF TODAY. THEY WOULD BE THEN BE FLOWN OUTSIDE KUWAIT PENDING THEIR TRIAL BY THE ORGANIZATION. THEIR DESTINATION WAS NOT DECIDED YET. IT MIGHT BE DAMASCUS BUT ALL DEPENDING ON CURRENT DELICATE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE FOLLOWING SOME NEW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND CERTAIN COMMANDO GROUPS. MEANWHILE, THE LEADER OF THE FIVE GUNMEN WHO HAD GONE ON A HUNGER STRIKE HERE TWO DAYS AGO CALLED OFF HIS STRIKE YESTERDAY AFTER HE WAS INFORMED ABOUT KUWAIT'S DECISION."

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3. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT ABOVE REPORT IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.  
STOLTZFUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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